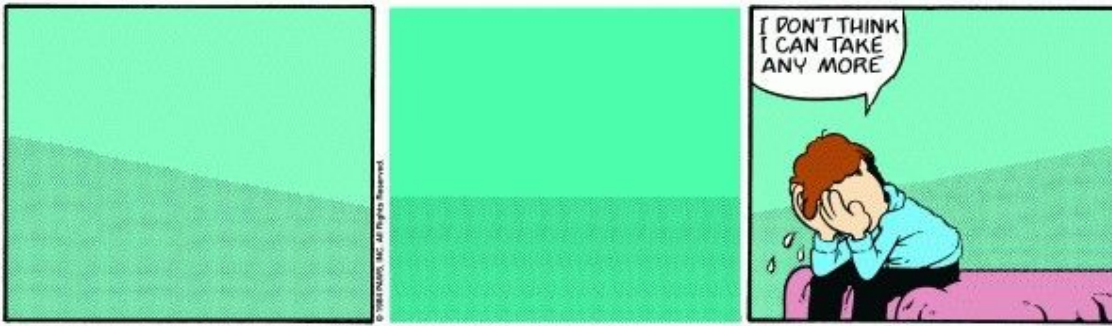




It is May 26th, 2022 at 1:14 am. It's a VERY early Thursday morning and I have just woken up on day #8 of my Jon Arbuckle fixation.

Hello, I write extremely early to say that there might be a very slight, teeny tiny issue with my Jon Arbuckle fixation that I feel I need to address.

I relate to him. In fact, I relate to him so much. Maybe too much, even. So much it hurts.

Now, I discussed his briefly in The Jonicles - Entry 2 on day #5 that I relate to Jon quite a bit while talking about his struggles. Yet in the span of just a few days, it has changed quite a bit. Jon Arbuckle isn't only painfully relatable - he full on resonates with me. Let me explain.

When reading not only the Garfield Minus Garfield strips, but ordinary Garfield strips in general, I stop and take in Jon's emotions. I study his features, I look closely at his body language and posture, and I see someone who is struggling. Whenever there's a panel where Jon stands there idly, seemingly lost in thought, I see a man who cannot organise his own thoughts and suffers because of it. When Jon speaks his mind to himself or his cat and makes a grim statement, I think of somebody who just doesn't have a more helpful way of venting out that frustration, loneliness and agony. Whenever Jon lays his head on the table or weeps or puts his head in his hands and just can't take all the stress anymore, it reminds me of someone...

That someone is not only Jon...

That's me, dude. I'm Jon. And it hurts.

And I don't think it's because Jon is affecting my mental wellbeing in a negative way because I'm so obsessed with him or something. Well, he's certainly affecting it, but it's more complex than that.

I didn't think I'd be talking about my own mental health this early into this series, it's not even day #10 yet, and I don't feel like I can fully go in depth with how I feel, mainly because of trust issues and me chickening out and deleting it before anyone notices. But I think Jon has better helped me recognise the fact that I'm not doing so hot, to say the least. I'm going to use less formal language for this.

Jon, through his own suffering, has made me see my own in a much clearer light. Through his anxieties, I see my own, and I get a better viewing of my own behaviours because of that. Through Jon's own silly thoughts and mannerisms, talking to himself/Garfield, I'm able to recognise that his loneliness is my own, and that besides a few people, I feel like I just can't talk about it. And through Jon's depressive episodes, his grim thoughts of self loathing and suicide, his moments of failure, weakness and pain... Well, I guess you could probably fill in the blanks there.

I don't think I've been doing too well, and I'm having a hard time even recognising and feeling what I'm feeling sometimes. And that's why Jon means so much to me. He's like an outlet for all my worries and pain, whether Garfield is in the picture or not, it's all the same to me. He's not only someone to laugh with and like, he's someone I can relate to, see myself in and recognise myself in a really weird "i have such a huge obsession with this character that i'd rather be them" sorta way. Jon goes through that pain too, and even though he's expressed his pain in saying he thinks he'll "go out and shoot myself", he's still here, with his pets, heck, he's even with Liz now. But most importantly, he's with himself. He's still got himself. After all that's happened, after all the pain, even if he still feels that pain... Jon's still here and he's still kicking, whether the comic allows him to or not. Not Lyman though. He's gone.

Other characters I have "simped for" mean a lot to me. Wilson P. Higgsbury will forever resonate with me for his dorky, loveable yet semi-serious personality, his neurotic and sheltered behaviour and passion for what he loves (which is science!). Spamton G. Spamton will forever resonate with me for his charming yet desperate behaviour, his

secretly deep and [HonestMan] personality, his unending desire for true freedom and his general fucked up nature of being a skrunkly little scrimblo. I have a strong connection with these characters because I love them for who they are, they're interesting and I relate to and resonate with them. I see myself in them. I love them.

But Jon is a slightly different case because he goes further in terms of connection and I think that's why I'm so attached to him. This sudden realisation of "bro, that's me.... that's me fr....." has made me realise myself, and even though it's definitely painful to go through mental hardships, I appreciate the recognition I felt. I don't know when I can get help. I don't know when or if I'll ever feel comfortable with it. I know Jon won't magically get rid of my issues and make them disappear. But I know he'll be there for the journey, and I hope he'll be there to see it too. He gives me hope in hopelessness, and I can only hope this is temporary suffering for both Jon and I.

As a kid, I used to laugh at Jon and his silly antics. But now, I laugh with Jon in a sort of morbid resonance, like it's a sorrowful nod of understanding. I just get him, and he gets me. And that's okay. I like that.

Jon, I not only welcome you with open arms to my fucked up canary of a brain, but I welcome you into my heart as well. You have touched my heart in such a complex, sad yet relatable way that I can tell you're a character to keep, and I hope you enjoy your stay with the other funny little guys who have touched my heart too.

Last edited: 2:14 am. Exactly one hour. Damn.